



**Higher Education
Services Corporation**

NYS Student Aid for Transfer Students

NYSTAA Conference: Spring 2020

NYS Financial Aid Programs

Excelsior Scholarship

scholarships for
Academic Excellence

**World Trade Center
Memorial Scholarship**

ENHANCED TUITION AWARDS

NYS Memorial Scholarship

TAP

Tuition Assistance Program

PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIP

Science, Technology,
Engineering and **STEM**
Mathematics Incentive

NYS Math and Science
Teaching Incentive Scholarship



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NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- Provides undergraduate students with grant funding to help pay tuition at eligible schools in New York State
 - Need-based, up to \$5,165/year
 - Full-time and part-time study
 - Based on NYS income tax information



Excelsior Scholarship

- Provides for full in-state tuition coverage for students attending SUNY or CUNY
 - Less any Pell, TAP, or other aid covering tuition
- 2020-21 applicants must have household income of \$125,000 or less to qualify
 - Based on 2018 federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), same as FAFSA



Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA)

- Provides tuition awards up to \$6000 to state residents attending participating private schools located in NYS
 - Award reduced by TAP grant
 - List of participating schools available online
- Same income qualifications as Excelsior



Other NYS Scholarships, Incentive Programs

- Students should explore other NYS scholarship and incentive programs including
 - Part-time Scholarship Award
 - Masters in Teaching Incentive Program
 - Math & Science Teaching Incentive Program
 - Child Welfare Worker Incentive Scholarship
 - Veterans Tuition Awards
 - More online at hesc.ny.gov



Key Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must
 - be a NYS resident or meet the residency requirements under the NYS DREAM Act
 - be a US Citizen, Permanent Resident or have a qualified citizenship/immigration status under the NYS DREAM Act
 - have a US high school diploma or recognized equivalent
 - meet income eligibility requirements, where applicable



Application Process

FAFSA Eligible Applicants

- Eligible for federal student aid programs (FAFSA)
- Student and parents are residents of New York State

NYS DREAM Act Applicants

- Educational criteria
- Citizenship and immigration criteria
- Student may or may not be a resident of New York State



Applying for TAP (non-DREAM Act Applicant)

2019-2020 Confirmation Page

Congratulations, first!
Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

Confirmation Number: F 19300001409 08/17/2018 14:10:6
Data Release Number (DNR): 1872

What Happens Next

- You will receive an e-mail version of this page.
- In 3-5 business days, you will receive an e-mail notifying you that your FAFSA was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address:
Student@fsa.gov

PRINT THIS PAGE

Start your state application to apply for New York state-based financial aid.

Does your brother or sister need to complete a FAFSA?
If so, you can transfer your parents' information into a new FAFSA for your brother or sister to save time. Your parents will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.

[Expand All](#)

> Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = 000000

> Foster Care Information

> School(s) on your FAFSA:

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Higher Education Services Corporation | Home | Contact Us | Logout

NYS Student Aid Payment Application

Welcome to the New York State Student Aid Payment Application! This online application process allows you to apply for New York State's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), as well as request a payment for a scholarship for which you have already been selected.

To complete your online application, you must first create a user name and personal identification number (PIN). [Click here.](#)

You must submit a FAFSA application to receive payment for TAP. If you have not submitted a FAFSA, go to <https://fafsa.gov>

If you have any questions, click the [Contact Us](#) link above.

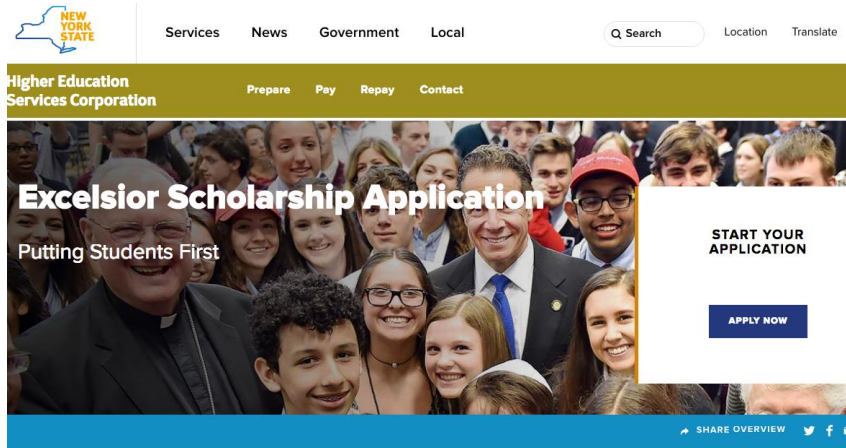
Next



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

Higher Education
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Applying for Special Programs



OVERVIEW

New York is now home to the Nation's first accessible college program - The Excelsior Scholarship.

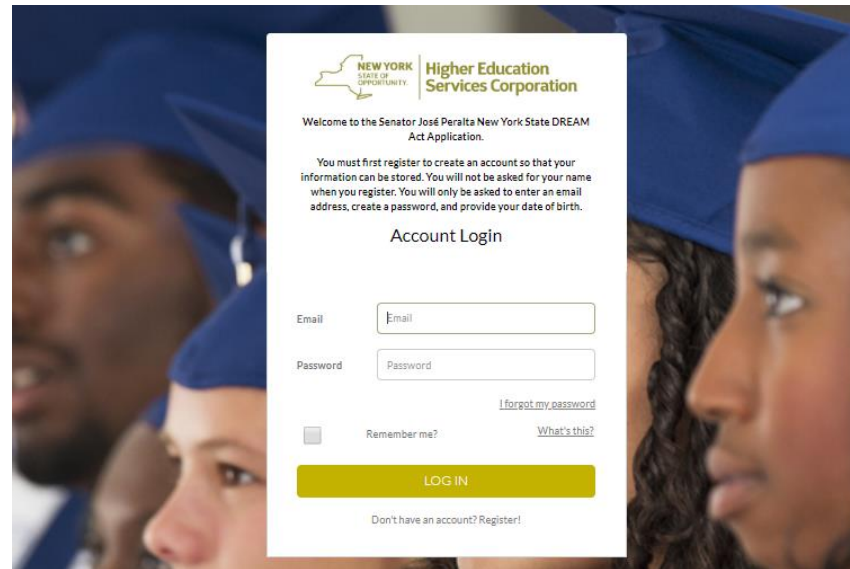
- First-time applicants for special programs, such as the Excelsior Scholarship, must complete the supplemental application for that program



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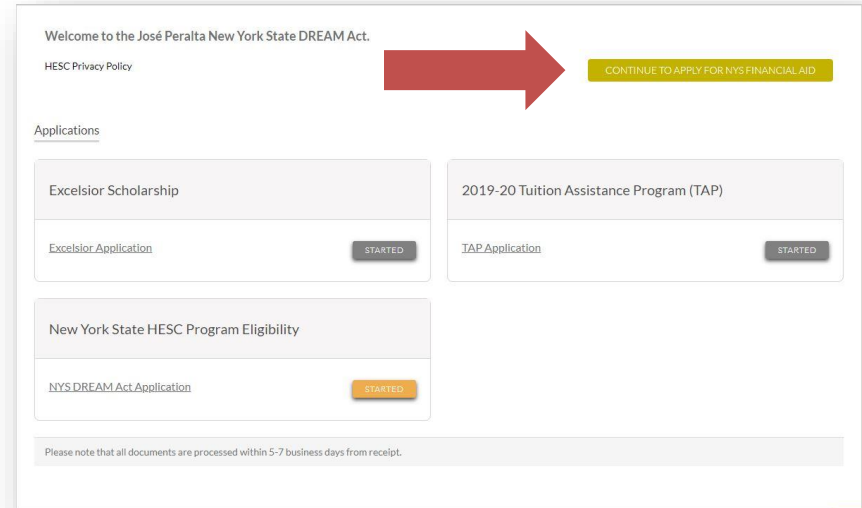
NYS DREAM Act Applicants

- Complete NYS DREAM Act eligibility application at hesc.ny.gov/dream
- Must upload required documentation
- FAFSA is not required



NYS DREAM Act: Applying for NYS Aid

- TAP, Excelsior, ETA and other applications available on same application portal using the “Continue to Apply for NYS Student Aid” link



The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to the José Peralta New York State DREAM Act.' page. At the top, there is a 'HESC Privacy Policy' link and a large red arrow pointing to a yellow button labeled 'CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR NYS FINANCIAL AID'. Below this, the 'Applications' section is displayed. It contains three application cards: 'Excelsior Scholarship' with a 'STARTED' button, '2019-20 Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)' with a 'STARTED' button, and 'New York State HESC Program Eligibility' with a 'STARTED' button. A footer note states: 'Please note that all documents are processed within 5-7 business days from receipt.'

Common Issues for Transfer Students

- Loss of TAP point eligibility
- Timely declaration of major
- Transfer credit and full-time status
- Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Award academic eligibility



Grant & Scholarship Payment Points

- HESC maintains records of awards paid to students by assigning points for each payment.
 - A full semester TAP award equals six (6) payment points
 - Trimester or quarter award equals four (4) payment points
 - Part-time award recipients will have TAP points prorated based on their award type or certified number of credits



Transfer Students & Lifetime Point Limits

- Point and lifetime eligibility does not reset when students transfer schools
- Transfer may cause some students to exhaust eligibility prior to degree or program completion
 - Associate's, 2-Year Degree Programs – 36-point limit
 - Baccalaureate, 4-Year Degree Programs – 48 points
 - If enrolled in an approved five-year or Opportunity program – 60 points



Guidance to Students: Point Eligibility

- Students must:
 - be made aware of lifetime limits for NYS awards
 - avoid excessive transferring of schools, if possible
 - Transfer to schools with articulation agreements to mitigate loss of credits



Major Declaration

- Two-year programs:
 - Students must declare a major no later than within 30 days of the end of the institution's add/drop period in ***the first term of their sophomore year***
- Four-year programs:
 - Students must declare a major no later than within 30 days of the ***institution's add/drop period in the*** first term of their junior year



Guidance to Transfers: Major Declaration

- Inform incoming transfer students of the requirement to declare major upon enrollment, if necessary
 - Within 30 days of first term add/drop date
 - May risk loss of first state aid payments at the transfer institution for late declaration



Full-time Study Requirement

- Most New York State awards require students to be enrolled full-time each term to qualify for payment
- Full-time status is defined as being enrolled in 12 or more credits that are all applicable toward the student's degree program
 - At least 24 instructional hours per week at clock hour programs



Full-time Study & Course Selection

- Courses must count toward specified general education, primary major, or free elective requirements
- Courses that are not integral to a student's program of study cannot be included as part of the minimum full-time course load
 - Including courses taken for a minor or second major that is not required for degree completion



Full Time Study & Transfer Students

- Transfer credits are often assigned as free-electives by the transfer institution, unbeknownst to the student
- Except for the final year of study, non-required free elective courses cannot be counted toward full-time status
 - Including non required free electives



Guidance to Transfers: Full-time Study

- Incoming transfer students should be properly advised how their transfer credits are being allocated toward their new degree track and the impact of taking non-required courses on NYS aid eligibility
 - Including how many free-elective courses they may take at the new institution



Excelsior/ETA Academic Requirements

- The Excelsior Scholarship and ETA program have academic requirements that continuing students must meet to qualify for an award
 - **On-time Graduation:** Students must have earned at least 30 credits each year of prior study to be considered
 - **Continuous/Full-time Study:** Students must have had no breaks in enrollment, with each previously enrolled term being full-time



Excelsior & ETA: Transfer Students

- Transfer students must meet the continuous enrollment and on-time graduation requirements qualify for Excelsior and ETA
 - For example, a transfer student entering their third year of college must have earned 60 credits from two prior years of consecutive enrollment as a full-time student at their previous institution(s).



Pre-College Credit

- Non-matriculated college credit that is transferred in can be used to help students meet the on-time graduation, continuous enrollment requirements
 - CUNY College Now, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Credits may be added to a past term, replace a missed term
 - Cannot be used again to resolve future eligibility issues



Making Up Credits Before Enrollment

- Students may make up missing credits prior to enrollment to become eligible
 - Example: Third-year transfer student starting in Fall 2020 term who only has 54 transfer credits may take six credits in Summer 2020 term to make up the missing credits needed to get to 60.



Special Circumstances: Excelsior/ETA

- Students failing to meet the on-time graduation and continuous enrollment requirements can appeal if they have a valid special circumstance
 - Death of immediate family member, illness/injury, students with disabilities
 - Appeals are made to and decided by HESC



Guidance to Transfer Students: Excelsior/ETA

- Students should be fully informed of Excelsior and ETA program requirements prior to applying
 - Including appeals process and options to make up credit
- Institutions should inform transfer students about transfer credit policies and the potential loss of Excelsior/ETA awards if some transfer credit is not accepted
 - Appeals process for transfer credit decisions



HESC Services and Support

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(212)961-4467



Questions?

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12255

www.hesc.ny.gov (web chat available)

1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372)



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Thank You!

